

[Report No. 4.]

FEBRUARY 11, 1853.

Read twice, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. SEYMOUR, from the Committee on Commerce, reported the following bill :

A BILL

Establishing reciprocal trade with the British North American Colonies upon certain conditions.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 whenever the government of Great Britain shall agree with
4 the government of the United States that the people of the
5 United States shall enjoy unmolested the same rights to take
6 fish of every kind in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, on the coasts
7 and shores of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Cape Breton,
8 New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and of any and
9 all other the British possessions in North America, and in all
10 the bays, gulfs, creeks, and waters, or places of the sea, bor-
11 dering on and adjacent to the British possessions in North
12 America, and to dress, cure, and dry the same on the coasts
13 and shores of any part of the British possessions in North
14 America, as are or shall, from time to time, hereafter be en-

15 joyed by subjects of Great Britain, subject, however, to the
16 rights of the proprietors or possessors of the ground where said
17 fish may be dressed, cured, or dried; and whenever the gov-
18 ernment of Great Britain shall agree with the government of
19 the United States that all leases of fishing rights or privileges,
20 and lands necessary for the enjoyment of the same, made by
21 British subjects to any of the people of the United States, shall
22 have the same force and effect as if made to British subjects;
23 and whenever the government of Great Britain, with the con-
24 sent of the government of the provinces of Canada and New
25 Brunswick, shall agree with the government of the United
26 States that the people of the same, in American bottoms, and
27 with boats, rafts, and vessels of every description, may use and
28 navigate the river St. Lawrence and the river St. John, in
29 New Brunswick, from their sources to the ocean, together
30 with all canals and waters connecting the great northern lakes
31 with the Atlantic ocean through the river St. Lawrence, as
32 the same now are or hereafter may be enjoyed by the subjects
33 of Great Britain, subject only to the charges and regulations
34 which now exist, or shall hereafter be prescribed, for the use
35 and navigation of the same by the inhabitants of the British
36 provinces in North America or other British subjects; and
37 whenever the government of New Brunswick, with the con-
38 sent of the government of Great Britain, shall abolish all ex-
39 port duties on lumber cut on lands within the territory of the

40 United States, and transported down the river St. John and
 41 exported thence; and whenever the President of the United
 42 States shall issue his proclamation declaring that the articles
 43 hereinafter enumerated, being of the growth, production, or
 44 manufacture of the United States, are admitted into the British
 45 North American provinces by law free of duty;—that on and
 46 after that day the like articles being of the growth, produc-
 47 tion, or manufacture of the said British North American
 48 provinces, shall be admitted into the United States free of
 49 duty, when imported directly from such provinces, so long as
 50 the said enumerated articles are admitted into such British
 51 North American provinces when imported directly from the
 52 United States free of duty, or until otherwise directed by the
 53 government of the United States, to wit: Grains, flour, and
 54 breadstuffs of all kinds, seeds, unmanufactured hemp, unmanu-
 55 factured flax and tow, animals of all kinds, undried fruits, fish
 56 of all kinds, dried, smoked, salted, and fresh; meats, salted,
 57 smoked, and fresh; hides, sheep pelts, wool, butter, cheese,
 58 tallow, lard, horns, manures, ores of all kinds, stone and mar-
 59 ble in its crude or worked state, gypsum, ground or un-
 60 ground, ashes, firewood, agricultural implements, including
 61 axes; fish oil, broom-corn, bark, unwrought burr stones, dye-
 62 stuffs, rice, cotton, unmanufactured tobacco, unrefined sugar.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That whenever the
 2 President of the United States shall issue his proclamation

3 declaring that the government of Great Britain has agreed
4 with the government of the United States that round, hewed,
5 and sawed timber of all kinds, and all lumber of every descrip-
6 tion, the growth and production of the United States, when
7 exported directly therefrom to the British West India islands,
8 shall, during the continuance of the reciprocal trade provided
9 for by this act, be admitted into the ports of said islands at no
10 higher duty than shall be imposed in such ports on similar ar-
11 ticles when imported into said islands from the British North
12 American provinces, that on and after that day, round, hewed,
13 or sawed timber of all kinds, and all sawed lumber of every
14 description, undressed and unmanufactured in any way, the
15 growth and production of the British North American
16 provinces, when they shall by law admit into their ports free
17 of duty the articles named in the first section of this act as
18 therein provided, shall be admitted into the United States,
19 when imported directly from said provinces, free of duty, so
20 long as similar articles, the growth and production of the Uni-
21 ted States, shall, when exported from the United States, be ad-
22 mitted free of duty into the ports of the United Kingdom of
23 Great Britain and Ireland, or until otherwise directed by the
24 government of the United States; and when any duty is or
25 shall be charged in the ports of the United Kingdom of Great
26 Britain and Ireland upon such articles so as aforesaid imported
27 directly from the United States, the same duty shall be charged

28 upon round, hewed, or sawed timber of all kinds, and all
 29 sawed lumber of every description, undressed and unmanufac-
 30 tured in any way, when imported from said provinces directly
 31 into the ports of the United States.

Mr. T. J. D. FULLER proposes to offer the following as a substitute
 for the foregoing bill :

A BILL

To regulate the rights of fishing and the rights of disposing of the
 proceeds of the fisheries in and between the British North
 American provinces and the United States.

Strike out after the enacting clause, and insert—

1 That whenever the President of the United States shall
 2 receive satisfactory evidence that the fishermen and fishing
 3 vessels of the United States are admitted to the common rights
 4 and privileges of British subjects resident in those provinces
 5 to fish in the waters thereof and adjacent thereto, together
 6 with the right of curing and preparing for the market the
 7 proceeds of such fisheries, both upon the water and the land,
 8 then he shall issue his proclamation authorizing the fishermen
 9 and fishing vessels of said provinces to enjoy like privileges in
 10 the waters of the United States, together with the privilege
 11 of entering the ports of entry in the United States, and making
 12 sale of fish and the proceeds of the fisheries upon the payment

13 of the same duties which are required by law of the fishing
14 vessels and their cargoes belonging to the United States :
15 *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall affect private
16 rights of fishing, or give any right to occupy private property
17 except upon agreement.